REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7, and 9 have been amended. Applicants believe, as set forth below, that Claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of same.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify the structure of the claimed device and have amended Claims 6, 7, and 9 to properly invoke means plus function language. Applicants accordingly submit that Claims 1-11 as amended are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,569,476 to van Manen, et al. ("Van Manen"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Van Manen teaches an injection molding machine having a rotatable turret 43 on which are mounted four slidable receiving plates 44, 45, 46, 47. The slidable receiving plates 44-47 are arranged in two opposing pairs, as depicted in Figure 5, reproduced below. In Figure 5, receiving plates 44 and 46 form a first opposing pair, and receiving plates 45 and 47 form a second opposing pair. Protruding orthogonally outward from the slidable receiving plates 44-47 are tube-like conditioning cavities.

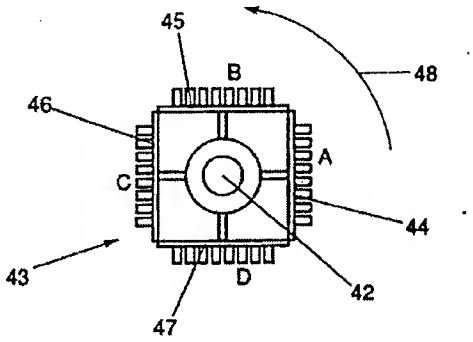

FIG. 5

In operation, each receiving plate with its conditioning cavities is individually slid off of the rotating turret and inserted between two open halves 50a, 50b of a mould. As shown in Figures 6 and 7 of Van Manen, reproduced below, an extendable arm 52 extends from the turret apparatus and inserts one slidable receiving plate (in this case, plate 44) in between the two open halves 50a, 50b of the mould. The rotatable turret apparatus remains outside of the mould, and, indeed, is too bulky to fit between the halves of the mould.

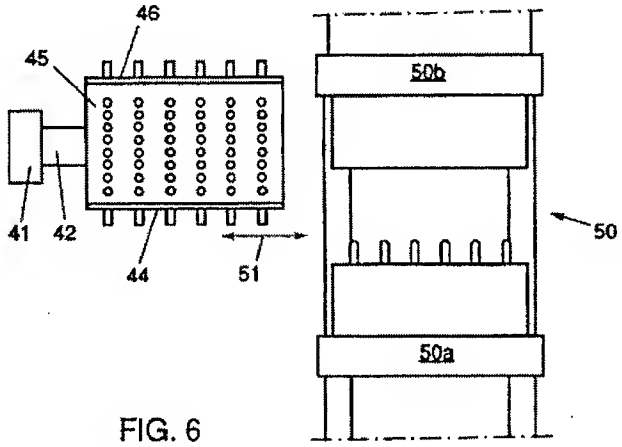

FIG. 6

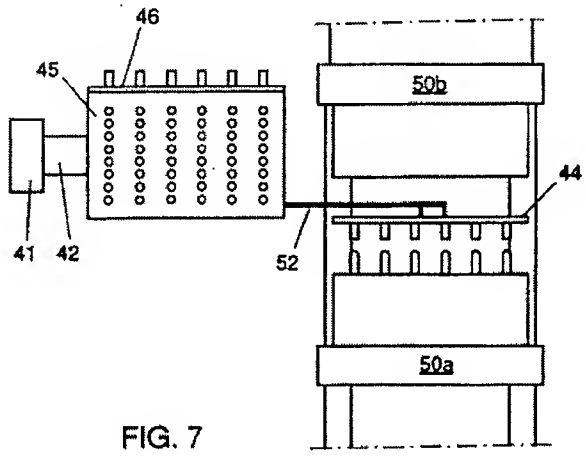

FIG. 7

Importantly, as shown in all of Figures 5-7, the individual conditioning cavities of Van Manen extend only outwards from the receiving plates 44-47 on the rotatable turret 43. Van Manen does not teach, and actually teaches away from, the conditioning cavities of one side 46 of the rotatable turret being located in such a way as to be "side by side for at least a portion of their own length" with respect to the conditioning cavities

on the opposing plate. Arranging Van Manen's conditioning cavities so that they could lie "side by side" with the conditioning cavities of the opposing plate "for at least a part of their own length" would include arranging the cavities to extend backwards from the receiving plates 44-47 into the rotatable turret 43. This arrangement would actually impede the ability to slide the receiving plates off the rotatable turret, which is an important feature of Van Manen's concept of inserting individual plates conditioning cavities off a rotatable turret, rather than inserting the entire rotatable turret, into a relatively narrow opening between the halves of a mould.

In contrast, Claim 1, as currently amended, recites, among other recitations:

> a group of conditioning cavities, each conditioning cavity having a length and being provided with a respective opening for the insertion of said objects, said group of conditioning cavities comprising first and second conditioning cavities, wherein the openings of the first conditioning cavities are located on the first side of the rotating turret, and the openings of the second conditioning cavities are located on the second side of the turret , such that the openings of the first conditioning cavities and the openings of the second conditioning cavities face in opposite directions,
>
> the first conditioning cavities being located in such a way as to be side by side with the second conditioning cavities for at least part of their own length.

An embodiment of the claimed arrangement is depicted in Figure 4A, reproduced below.

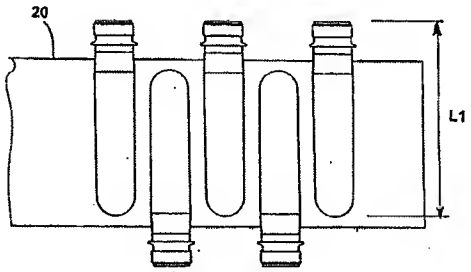

Fig. 4A

As taught in paragraphs [0027] – [0028] and elsewhere throughout the text, several useful advantages may be attributed to this arrangement, in which the conditioning cavities are located within the rotatable turret 20. For example, the arrangement allows for a thinner and more compact turret that can be inserted between

two open halves of a mould, resulting in increased overall efficiency, due to a simpler mechanical structure to the conditioning device and a reduced cooling cycle time for the conditioning process.

The Office Action states, in the rejection, that "Manen teaches the claimed apparatus and method for conditioning objects in plastic material." The Applicants respectfully disagree. Nowhere does the Office Action point to any portion of Van Manen that teaches "a rotating turret comprising two opposing sides" "wherein the openings of the first conditioning cavities are located on the first side of the rotating turret, and the openings of the second conditioning cavities are located on the second side of the turret , " and "the first conditioning cavities being located in such a way as to be side by side with the second conditioning cavities for at least part of their own length" as described in Claim 1. Indeed, as explained above, Van Manen actually teaches away from such an arrangement. Furthermore, the Office Action itself correctly states on Page 3 that, "It is noted that van Manen does not teach a structure that would have the first and second sides on opposite faces of the turret with the first and second groups of cavities of the respective faces being in a side by side orientation." Accordingly, Van Manen does not teach each and every element of Claim 1 and, therefore, does not anticipate Claim 1. Furthermore, Van Manen does not suggest the recitations of Claim 1 and, therefore, also does not render Claim 1 as obvious.

Additionally, each of Claims 2-11 depends, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. Claims 2-11 are therefore also patentably distinct from the Van Manen reference in view of their dependencies from Claim 1. In addition, at least some of these claims recite additional patentable distinctions over the references.

For example, Claim 10, as presented herein, recites, among other recitations, "introducing the rotating turret in the middle of the two open halves of a warm forming mould." Van Manen does not teach, and actually teaches away from: "introducing the rotating turret in the middle of the two open halves of a warm forming mold." Accordingly, Van Manen does not teach each and every element of Claim 10.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of Claims 1-11.

Applicants have made a good faith effort to respond to all of the comments of the Examiner. If any issues remain, please contact the Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Co-Pending Applications of Assignee

Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention once more to the following co-pending applications of the present application's assignee.

Docket No.	Serial No.	Title	Filed
NOTAR10.003APC	10/594,367	Injection Device	22-Sept-2006
NOTAR10.004APC	11/547,425	Apparatus for Blow Moulding of Plastic Objects	29-Sept-2006
NOTAR10.005APC	11/597,396	Mould Holding Cross Member for a Moulding Press and Press Comprising Said Cross Member	22-Nov-2006
NOTAR10.006APC	11/629,587	Plastic Bottle and Process for Affixing a Shrinkable Label Thereon	14-Dec-2006

NOTAR10.007APC	12/063,232	Apparatus and Process for Drying Plastic Material for A Machine Used to Produce Plastic Containers	07-Feb-2008
NOTAR10.008APC	12/063,025	Injection System	05-Feb-2008
NOTAR10.009APC	12/066,652	Heating Device for Plastic Preforms	12-Mar-2008
NOTAR10.010APC	12/302,272	Container Coating System and Process	24-Nov-2008

Applicant understands that the Examiner has access to sophisticated online Patent Office computing systems that provide ready access to, for example, specification and drawing publications, pending claims and complete file histories, including, for example, cited art, Office Actions, responses and notices of allowance. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner review these file histories. However, if the Examiner cannot readily access these file histories, Applicant would be pleased to provide any portion of any of the file histories at any time upon request.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Oct. 1, 2009

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